



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities

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OFFICE OF PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Priorities & Objectives

Fiscal Year 2005

(*) Denotes an objective that may involve advocacy representation of individual clients.

Priority 1 – Promote Community Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

Program(s)	Goal	Objective(s)
PAIR, DD, AT	1. Persons with disabilities will have equal access to the programs and services sponsored by state and local government entities.	Objective 1(*) - Address discriminatory exclusion of children with disabilities from municipal recreational opportunities including play areas and after school programs.
PAVA		Objective 2(*) - Improve accessibility of the voting process by accessing physical and communication access of polling places in Connecticut and informing Registrars of Voters and persons with disabilities concerning the rights of voters with disabilities.
DD		Objective 3 – Assemble organizations interested in the development of an independent architectural access board charged with investigating complaints and granting/denying waiver requests related to the accessibility provisions of the Connecticut State Building Code.
DD		Objective 4 – Meet with representatives of the Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Works and Homeland Security to review Connecticut disaster plans for physical and communication accessibility to persons with disabilities.
DD, AT, PAIR		Objective 5 – Using state and federal statutes and regulations, assess accessibility of low rider buses in one Connecticut community and work with transportation officials to address issues resulting from the assessment.
DD, PAIR	2. Policymakers will have a better	Objective 1(*) – Continue to influence Olmstead planning and implementation to ensure that people in long term care

Program(s)	Goal	Objective(s)
DD DD MI	understanding of issues experienced by persons with disabilities who live or are attempting to secure or maintain a home in the community.	facilities, including individuals with mental illness, are afforded real choices to live in well supported homes in the community. Objective 2 – Develop a work group of parents, agencies and providers to investigate methods of delivering nursing services in the home to families who have children with severe disabilities Objective 3 – Develop a strategy for the creation of relevant support services for persons with developmental disabilities who do not have mental retardation (e.g. autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy)
	3. Individuals with psychiatric disabilities will have safe affordable housing choices.	Objective 1 – Hire a peer educator to conduct ongoing outreach and education on disability rights, PAIMI services and self advocacy to residents in five (5) residential care homes in Connecticut.

Priority 2 – Safeguard the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Living in Institutions

Program(s)	Goal	Objective(s)
PAIR MI MI DD MI MI	1. Individuals living in institutional settings in Connecticut will have access to quality physical and mental health care, and disability related accommodations and programs.	Objective 1(*)– Address violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act for prisoners who are deaf or hard of hearing. Objective 2(*) – Evaluate, monitor and provide advocacy representation for prisoners with mental illness who are receiving poor mental health treatment from the Connecticut prison system. Objective 3 – Review 75% of suicide deaths and reported attempts by prisoners with mental illness to identify systemic issues in the delivery of mental health services and monitor efforts by the Department of Corrections to address prevention of future suicides. Objective 4 (*) – Continue advocacy representation for Southbury Training School residents who have program related issues. Objective 5 – Develop 2 PAIMI flyers for distribution in skilled nursing facilities and residential care homes. Objective 6 – Conduct outreach to 8 locked units at skilled nursing facilities on rights, services and self-advocacy.

Program(s)	Goal	Objective(s)
MI		Objective 7 (*) – Improve access to appropriate language and culturally based mental health services for five (5) minority individuals with psychiatric disabilities whose primary language is not English by assisting individuals in filing grievances, exercising their rights, and identifying the systemic barriers that prevent access to the services.
MI		Objective 8 – Meet with representatives of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to review and update progress on the implementation of the standards of practice for culturally (Latino) based mental health services.
MI		Objective 9– Establish a presence in children’s psychiatric facilities by investigating restraint and seclusion injury reports; reviewing with the Dept. of Children Families, systemic issues identified during investigation of restraint and seclusion injury reports; developing and distributing age appropriate rights information for individuals under 18 years of age; recruiting a representative for the PAIMI advisory council; conducting outreach and education for residents of 1 treatment facility for children with mental illness and 50% of individuals participating in the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services’ Young Adult Service Program.

Priority 3 - Draw Attention to/Reduce Abuse and Neglect

Program(s)	Goal	Objective(s)
AID	1. The Abuse Investigation Division will have tools and resources to maximize its efficiency and effectiveness.	Objective 1 – Update and maintain a database for statistical analysis and trend monitoring of allegations received by AID.
MI	2. Individuals with disabilities will be free of abuse and neglect including improper restraint and seclusion.	Objective 1(*) – Review all reports of deaths and serious injuries resulting from the use of restraints and seclusion by agencies mandated by C.G.S. §46a-150 et seq. or federal statutes and periodically distribute information regarding such reports.
MI		Objective 2 (*) – Enforce the Patients’ Bill of Rights through education and information for individuals with disabilities, participation on key advisory boards and health councils, and advocacy representation for individuals with psychiatric disabilities who are being involuntarily medicated.

Program(s)	Goal	Objective(s)
MI		Objective 3 – Review with the Medical Director of DMHAS the pending health care standards and implementation of the DMHAS health care standards guiding the provision of preventative and corrective dental care to in patients of the DMHAS system and community consumers.
DD		Objective 4 – In accordance with Executive Order 25, review all deaths of individuals who are clients of the Department of Mental Retardation.
DD		Objective 5 – Investigate circumstances surrounding deaths of persons with mental retardation when warranted by Connecticut’s Fatality Review Board and formally report on the results of such investigations.
DD		Objective 6 – Address practices of the Department of Mental Retardation that result in their clients being placed in jail/prison or nursing homes.

Priority 4 – Education of Students with Disabilities

Program(s)	Goal	Objective(s)
DD, PAIR, MI	1. Hartford students with disabilities will receive a free appropriate education in a least restrictive environment.	Objective 1(*) – Focus effort on reforming special education deficiencies in the Hartford Public School System and investigate practices involved in placing students into a segregated, self-contained school for children with behavioral issues and suspected learning disabilities.
DD, PAIR	2. Parents will have support when dealing with special education maze.	Objective 1 – Support Hartford area parent organizations to increase the availability of parent assister/advocates by providing training assistance with education rights including IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

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Priority 5 – Employment Rights

CAP, PABSS, PAIR	1. Persons with Disabilities attempting to secure, maintain or regain employment, will understand and benefit from employment related rights, resources and supports in Connecticut.	Objective 1 – Disseminate informational materials about the PABSS program, Ticket to Work and ADA employment rights to Social Security Beneficiaries and key agencies and organizations that assist Social Security Beneficiaries.
PABSS		Objective 2(*) - Provide advocacy representation to Social Security Beneficiaries who are working toward gaining, maintaining, and returning to employment with a focus on individuals who receive a Ticket to Work and/or a notice of overpayment from Social Security.
PABSS		Objective 3 (*)– Provide information, referral and technical assistance on employment and Social Security related topics that include, but are not limited to, Ticket to Work; Work incentives; Social Security overpayments; Connecticut’s Medicaid Buy-In; vocational rehabilitation systems; employment networks; and federal and state statutes; to Social Security Beneficiaries, attorneys, government agencies, service providers and other advocacy organizations.
PABSS		Objective 4 – Continue to convene and facilitate meetings of the PABSS steering committee with a focus on developing community linkages, identifying employment issues for persons with disabilities in Connecticut and creating opportunities to provide outreach and training.
PABSS		Objective 5 - Provide education and training to Social Security beneficiaries, community providers and employers about the PABSS program and other disability related employment issues.